REFLECTIONS
ON A
PAPER,
INTITULED,
His Majesty's Reasons
For withdrawing himself from
ROCHESTER.

Published by Authority.

LONDON:
Printed for **John Starkey**; and **Ric. Chiswell** at the *Rose and Crown*, in S. *Paul's Church-yard.* MDCLXXXIX.

XUM

Reflections on a Paper, intituled, His Majesty's Reasons for withdrawing Himself from *Rochester.*

THERE is a Paper spread about the Town, which might be confuted in every particular, not only with Clearness, but with Severity too, if there was not a restraint put upon the full liberty of answering any thing that goeth under a Name, to which Respect will still be paid, even by those to whom it is denied: Therefore nothing will be said to it by way of an intire Answer; nor any advantage taken of the many Mistakes which lye too open to be Defended. It shall suffice for the present to mention some things which are laid down in the Paper, in such a manner, as may, perhaps, mislead men into a wrong judgment of them, for want of being sufficiently informed in the matter of fact.

The particulars are: 1. The Prince sending his Guards at Eleven of Clock at Night, to take possession of the Posts at *Whitehall*, **Without advertising Him of it in the least.**

2. The sending a kind of an Order by Three Lords, to be gone out of his own Palace before Twelve that Morning.

To the first, the matter of fact is, That upon the King's being Apprehended, when He was going out of the Kingdom, and afterwards being brought to *Rochester*, whither his Servants and Coaches were sent for by Him, to bring Him up to *London*, The Prince, who had upon that taken

his measures to hasten up to Town, and being fixed in his opinion, That it was, in many respects, improper for the King and him to be there at the same time, in the present state of Affairs; sent Monsieur *Zulestein* to meet Him in the way, and to desire Him to return to *Rochester*; but Monsieur *Zulestein* missing Him, by going another way than that by which He came, the King arrived at *Whitehall*, and at the same time sent a Message by my Lord *Feversham* to the Prince, inviting him to come to St. *James's*, with what number of Troops he should think fit to bring with him.

The Prince upon this deliberateth with the Lords then at *Windsor*, the day before he had appointed to be in Town, and having communicated the Message to them, and left them to debate the whole matter, it was agreed, That it was in no kind adviseable for the Prince to accept the invitation; and on the other side, there being a necessity that the Prince should be in Town next day, the Lords thought that the shortness of time could admit no better Expedient, than that the King might be desired to remove to some place within a reasonable distance from *London*; upon which, *Ham*, a House belonging to the Dutchess of *Lauderdale*, was pitched upon. In order to this, a Paper was drawn in these words, and Signed by the Prince:

We desire you the Lord Marquess of Hallifax, *the Earl of* Shreusbury, *and the Lord* Delamere, *to tell the King, That it is thought convenient for the great quiet of the City, and for the greater safety of His Person, That He do remove to* Ham, *where He shall be attended by Guards, who will be ready to preserve Him from any disturbance. Given at* Windsor, *the 17th day of* December, 1688.

Prince de Orange.

The

The Prince appointed three Lords to carry this Paper; and it was reſolved, That before the delivery, the Prince's Guards ſhould be poſſeſſed of all the Poſts at *Whitehall*, to prevent the poſſibility of a diſturbance from Guards belonging to ſeveral Maſters; which beſides other ill Conſequences might perhaps have involved even the King's own Perſon in the danger that might have ariſen from any Diſpute. It was ſuppoſed by computation, that the Prince's Guards might be at *London* by Eight of the Clock that Night: But it ſo happened, that it was paſt Ten before they all arrived, commanded by the Count of *Solmes*; and when they were come, there being difficulty made of withdrawing the King's Guards from *Whitehall*, there was ſo much time ſpent, that it was paſt Twelve of the Clock before the Lords could proceed in their Meſſage. In which, that they might preſerve all poſſible decency and reſpect; and that they might not ſuddenly break in upon the King with a Meſſage of this kind, they ſent to my Lord *Middleton*, His Principal Secretary of State, the following Letter.

My Lord,

There is a Meſſage to be delivered to His Majeſty from the Prince, which is of ſo great Importance, that we, who are charged with it, deſire we may be immediately admitted; and therefore deſire to know where we may find your Lordſhip, that you may introduce,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt humble Servants,

Hallifax,
Shreusbury,
Delamere.

The

The Lord *Middleton* told the Meſſenger, he would be ready at the Stairs of the Guard-chamber to carry the Lords to the King. Upon this they went, and finding my Lord *Middleton* at the place he had appointed, he brought them to the King, whom they found in bed :-After making an Apology for coming at an hour which might give him diſturbance, The Prince's Meſſage before recited was delivered Him; which after He had read, He ſaid, He would comply with. Then the Lords, as they were directed, humbly deſired, if it might be done with convenience to His Majeſty, That He would be pleaſed to remove ſo early, as to be at *Ham* by Noon; by this means, to prevent the meeting the Prince in his way to *London*, where he was to come the ſame day; His Majeſty readily agreed to it, and then asked, Whether he might not appoint what Servants ſhould attend Him; to which the Lords replied, That it was left to Him to give order in that as He pleaſed. And after that, they took their leave. When they were gone as far as the *Privy Chamber*, the King ſent for them again, and told them, That he had forgot to acquaint them with his Reſolutions before the Meſſage came, To ſend my Lord *Godolphin* next Morning to the Prince, to propoſe His going back to *Rocheſter*, he finding by the Meſſage that Monſieur *Zuleſteyn* was charged with, That the Prince had no mind He ſhould be in *London*; and therefore He now deſired, that He might rather return to *Rocheſter*, than go to any other Place. The Lords replied, That they would immediately ſend an Account to the Prince of what His Majeſty deſired, and did not doubt of ſuch an Anſwer as would be to His ſatisfaction; accordingly they ſent preſently to the Prince, who was then at *Sion*, to inform Him of all that had paſſed; and before Eight of the Clock in the Morning had a Letter from Monſieur *Benting*, by the Prince's

Prince's Order, agreeing to the King's Propoſal of going to *Rocheſter*; upon which, the Guards being made ready, and the Boats prepared, He went that Night to *Graveſend*.

The Obſervations which may naturally ariſe from this whole matter are, Firſt, That the King having been ſent to by the Prince by Monſieur *Zuleſteyn*, That He would be pleaſed to return to *Rocheſter*. This Meſſage by the Lords could not poſſibly be a ſurprize to Him, but muſt have been expected as a neceſſary Inference from the firſt; and this is proved in fact by the King's having given Order to my Lord *Godolphin* to go to the Prince with an offer to return to *Rocheſter*, concluding that his Highneſs would have leſs exception to His being there, than he might have to his remaining at *London*.

In the next place, As to the Complaint of the Prince's ſending his Guards at ſuch a time of night, and without giving warning; Let it be conſidered, whether, ſince a thing of this kind was judged neceſſary to be done, it had not better grace even in reſpect to the King Himſelf, to do it upon ſhort warning, rather than expoſe Him more by treating and propoſing formally that which His Majeſty was in no condition to deny. In all Caſes where the means of conteſting fail, it is ſure a Reſpect to thoſe who are under ſuch a diſadvantage, not to add to their mortification, by drawing it out in length by the deceitful Ceremony of treating where no Power is left to diſpute.

Then as to the Unſeaſonable hour, beſides other Reaſons that have been mentioned; Would thoſe who make the Objection have been content, a thing of this nature ſhould have been done in broad day-light, and by ſound of Drum and Trumpet? No doubt they would then, with more reaſon, have complained, That a King, in theſe unhappy circum-

circumſtances, ſhould be expoſed to ſuch an appearance of a Triumph; The thing, in the World, the Prince is the leaſt inclined to, and in that reſpect hath right to the faireſt conſtruction ſuch a Proceeding will admit.

Whoever will compare the Power of the Prince, with the uſe he maketh of it, muſt be ſufficiently convinced of his Moderation: And in this particular inſtance, allowing the neceſſity of the Prince's coming to Town that very day, of which he was the beſt Judge, and admitting the conſequence, which cannot reaſonably be denied, That the King's remaining there at that time might not only have given an interruption to the Peace of the Town, but to the Reſpect that ought to be preſerved to his Perſon; it was not poſſible to execute what was thought ſo neceſſary, with more Decency and Precaution than was obſerved; and impartial Judges, who are not carried away by the Sound of things, againſt the Reaſon of them, will, no doubt, give their Opinions, That this Proceeding doth not deſerve any part of the Cenſure that hath been put upon it, by thoſe who did not know the Truth of it.

THE END.

33234